

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 04382 101203Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 L-03 SS-15 /047 W  
-----075209 101413Z /40

R 100951Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5877

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, YE  
SUBJ: DRAFT OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR YAR

REF: STATE 228357

1. WITH EXCEPTION OF FEW CHANGES SUGGESTED BELOW,  
BELIEVE THAT DRAFT OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR YAR IS  
SERVICEABLE.

2. IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTTEL, BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD  
ELIMINATE SENTENCE THAT "THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT  
HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEGUN TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES  
TOWARDS ITS CITIZENS." POINT IS AMBIGUOUS AND ARGUABLE,  
WITH NO CLEAR RELATIONSHIP TO QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.  
FOLLOWING SENTENCE SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ "AFTER 1962  
THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFECTIVENESS WAS LIMITED BY A LONG CIVIL  
WAR ... ETC."

3. IN PARAGRAPH 3(B) OF REFTTEL, EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO  
INSTANCE IN WHICH HAND HAS BEEN SEVERED AS PUNISHMENT  
IN YAR.

4. IN PARAGRAPH 3(C) OF REFTTEL, LAST SENTENCE SHOULD BE  
CHANGED TO READ "POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY, RESULTING FROM  
ASSASSINATIONS AND SUBVERSION FROM SOUTH YEMEN, COULD  
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AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION." AS MATTER OF FACT, EMBASSY  
DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE OF ARBITRARY  
ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT IN YAR IN THE PAST YEAR. HOWEVER,  
REPORT MIGHT WELL NOTE THAT PROCEDURES FOR ARREST ARE VERY  
LAX, LIKE PROCEDURES FOR RELEASE FROM PRISON, AND STORY  
IS FREQUENTLY HEARD IN SANA AND ELSEWHERE OF ARREST AND  
DETENTION FOR SHORT PERIOD OF DAY OR TWO IN CONNEC-

TION WITH SOME CIVIL DISPUTE.

5. IN PARAGRAPH 5(A), EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT REPORT STATE THAT "THE LABOR UNION MOVEMENT IN YEMEN IS EMBRYONIC." WE DON'T KNOW OF ANY "ACTIVE," "FUNCTIONING," "NON-GOVERNMENTAL" LABOR UNIONS. IN FACT, WE DON'T KNOW OF ANY LABOR UNIONS AT ALL.

6. IN PARAGRAPH 5(C), BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD STATE THAT "THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS TAKE A TRADITIONAL FORM -- THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF TRIBES OR RESPECTED LEADERS -- BUT ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE TO THE POPULATION AND ACTIVELY EXPLOITED."

7. ALSO IN PARAGRAPH 5(C), IT IS INCORRECT AHT CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY WAS DISSOLVED IN 1974. IT WAS DISSOLVED IN 1975; HOWEVER IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY WAS RECONSTITUTED IN 1978 AFTER A THREE-YEAR HIATUS. IT ELECTED THE TWO LAST PRESIDENTS AND HAS TAKEN UP NEW POWERS OVER THE BUDGET, CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, A CODIFICATION OF ISLAMIC LAW AND PROVISIONS FOR NEW ELECTIONS.  
RANSOM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** DRAFT OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR YAR  
**TAGS:** SHUM, YE  
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